

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF**

February 7, 2011

The Historic District Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for the Regular Meeting on February 7, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. Notice and Agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 West Gray Building A, the Norman Municipal Building and at www.normanok.gov twenty-four hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Acting Chair N Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No. 1, being: **Roll Call.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Julie Benningfield Rangar Cline Jayne Crumpley Anna Eddings Chesley Potts Neil Robinson Anaïs Starr Scott Williams
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MEMBERS ABSENT:	Tara Little
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:	Susan Atkinson, Historic Preservation Officer Jolana McCart, Admin Tech IV
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SHPO REPRESENTATIVES:	Lynda Schwan, National Register Program Coordinator Glen Roberson, CLG Program Coordinator
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GUESTS:	See Attached Sheet
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Item No. 2, being: **Approval of the Agenda.**

Motion by J Crumpley for approval; Second by R Cline. All approve.

Item No. 3, being: **Approval of Minutes from the November 1, 2010 Regular Meeting and the December 6, 2010 Study Session.**

Motion by S William for approval; Second by J Crumpley. All approve.

Item No. 4, being: **Election of Chair and Co-Chair.**

Motion by R Cline for N Robinson Chair and S Starr Co-Chair; Second by J Benningfield. Unanimous.

Item No. 5, **Staff report on projects approved by Administrative Bypass since November 1, 2010.**

None have been issued.

Item No. 6, being: **Staff report on proposed CLG projects.**

The RFP for the Downtown National Register Nomination was published January 3, 2011. The submittal deadline is February 9, 2011.

Item No. 7, being: **Continuation of Certificate of Appropriateness for 633 Chautauqua. (Granted 11-2-09)**

The project was begun in December and is moving along slowly.

Item No. 8, being: **Continuation of Certificate of Appropriateness at 608 S Lahoma. (Granted 2-1-10) and (5-3-10).**

This project is complete.

Item No. 9, being: **Continuation of Certificate of Appropriateness at 412 Chautauqua. (Granted 3-1-10)**

This project has not begun and owners may abandon.

Item No. 10, being: **Continuation of Certificate of Appropriateness at 618 S Lahoma. (Granted 4-5-10)**

This project is complete.

Item No. 11, being: **Continuation of Certificate of Appropriateness at 701 Chautauqua. (Granted 6-7-10)**

Due to noncompliance, charges were filed and the property owner was made aware that the next step would be to issue a warrant for her arrest. The project is now complete.

Item No. 12, being: **Continuation of Certificate of Appropriateness at 523 S Lahoma. (Granted 11-2-10)**

This project has not begun.

Item No. 13, being: **Request for approval of the National register nomination of the OCCE complex on the OU campus.**

S Atkinson gave the staff report. Lynda Schwan, National Register Program Coordinator for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) presented the nomination to the Commission.

Motion by S Williams for approval of the nomination as presented; Second by J Benningfield. All approve.

A Starr stated that she appreciated the University taking the steps towards the National Register process for the complex.

J Crumpley asked what kind of protection the listing would provide for the property. L Schwan stated that as with any Register listing, it is an honorific status and provides no physical protection for the property.

Item No. 14, being: **Request for Certificate of Appropriateness at 517 S Lahoma.**

S Atkinson presented the staff report. David Ferris, property owner, was present to answer questions.

While landscaping is not part of the Commissions purview, concerns were expressed for the well being of the large trees in the back yard. The applicant stated that care had been taken to locate the pool where it would do the least amount of damage to the trees. Despite this, one tree would need to be removed.

Staff presented a letter of support from Glen Brown, 516 Chautauqua.

Motion by S Williams for approval of the application as presented; Second by J Crumpley. All approve.

Item No. 15, **Request for Certificate of Appropriateness at 639 S Lahoma.**

S Atkinson presented the staff report. David Williams, prospective buyer, was present to answer questions.

The majority of the Commissioners had toured the property. Staff stated that the tour attendance was sensitive to the Open Meetings Act.

A Eddings stated she was having concerns about tying the new construction concept with the demolition request without a precise construction plan. A Starr agreed. Chair Robinson said that the applicant could give his presentation then the Commission would have the opportunity to decide on how they wished to address the demolition/new construction application. David Williams stated that the interior mold was a big concern. He said that the company he spoke with said that the mold was "as bad as he had ever seen". Mr. Williams stated that all of the plaster would need to be removed, the studs sandblasted and new wiring installed. He said this would cost approximately \$30-\$50,000, subject to the unknowns. The structural damage would cost approximately \$100,000 to repair. He stated that what it added up to was saving the shell of the house, thus making saving the house cost prohibitive. He also stated that the windows would need some repair work and to be reglazed. He stated that the termite inspection showed no termite damage and the floors seemed fine.

Mr. Williams was asked if the applicant had considered a partial demolition, leaving the front façade. He said that he had steered away from that idea, thinking that the Commission would not be interested in that option.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Jim Warram – 638 S Lahoma – please refer to the letter entered into the record.

Ty Hardiman – 630 Miller – stated that he had seen the interior of the house at the time of the estate sale. He said that the neighbors had waited for decades to see something positive happen to the house and that the Commission was being presented the first step in preservation. He said he was aware that a respectable roofing contractor had been hired by Arvest Bank to replace the roof. He said that if the roof still leaks there shouldn't have been a problem with them returning to fix it. Mr. Hardiman stated that he had sat on the Commission for 10 years and it was always hard to say no to an applicant. But perhaps the Commission needed to look at not who they were saying no to but instead of who they were saying yes to: the Chautauqua neighborhood, the Miller neighborhood, and to the Oklahoma residents who value the work of Harold Gimeno. He stated that the Commission needed to make a statement to the bank and future buyers that demolitions were not an option. He said that he did not feel that a partial demolition was a negotiating possibility.

Jim Gassaway – 4509 Hunters Hill Circle – and previous owner/occupant of 635 S Lahoma. Mr. Gassaway stated that he had been a founding Commission member of the Chautauqua Historic District. He said that this house was the poster child of the neighborhood and was one of the top 5 architectural homes in Norman. He said that this structure was no different than any other 80 year old house in that you would not get the money back required for upkeep or updating. He said that the house deserved good treatment and a second chance. He said that he had not seen enough proof that the house needed to be demolished. He stated that the sale had been handled very quietly and that perhaps a more public sale would attract someone that was willing to spend the money it would require to update the house.

Rick Poland – 425 Chautauqua

Mr. Poland stated that he had also sat on the Commission for several years. He pointed out that Section 429.3(8)(c) of the Zoning Code listed things to consider for demolition.

- What will happen to the District? Emotional and integrity devastation of the district.
- Style of architecture importance? No other like this house in Norman and there was a duty to preserve the Gimeno house as he felt a duty to preserve his own house.

He said that he walked by the house everyday and would be sick to see it go away. He felt an alternative to demolition would be to open the house to an actual public sale and not such a closed one. He felt that there was someone who would be willing to take it on.

Karen Thurston – 712 Cruce – Please refer to the letter entered into the record.

Vicki Dollarhide – 645 S Lahoma

Ms. Dollarhide said that she did not see the demolition as just a threat to the district, but as a far more reaching concern. She said that the style, age and scale of the house enhances the area as a whole and is the only Gimeno house in the district and on that street. She said that Harold Gimeno was the most notable designer in Norman and the state of Oklahoma and his contributions were immeasurable. Please refer to the information entered into the record.

David Dollarhide – 645 S Lahoma

Mr. Dollarhide stated that the purpose of the commission was to preserve unique structures and he felt that the prospective buyer did not share this purpose.

Stan Berry – 712 Juniper Lane

Mr. Berry asked that the Commission consider the historical significance of the structure. He stated that the Commission could not miss out on this chance for preservation.

Public comments ended.

Chair Robinson suggested that the items of demolition and new construction be separated into two separate items, with demolition being discussed first. The other Commission members agreed.

C Potts stated that she wasn't convinced that demolition was necessary. She felt that the structure was unique and we were lucky to have it in our area.

A Starr agreed with Potts statements. She had envisioned the structure being in a worse state. She did agree that there was a lot of mold. The floors looked good. She felt that she needed more evidence for demolition.

R Cline said they needed to consider the fabric of the neighborhood and the impact that would be made not just to the neighborhood but on a wider scope. If there were a threat of collapse he might be able to consider demolition, but did not see evidence of such.

J Benningfield said she agreed with what the others said and would not be comfortable voting against what the Commission stood for.

J Crumpley stated it would be hard to drive down the street and not see such a unique house standing. She said that maybe the house could be done in parts to keep the cost from being so expensive.

Motion by S William for denial; Second by a Starr.

Chair N Robinson wished to thank the applicant for their efforts and felt that their concern for the property was as great as was the Commissions. He felt that Arvest Bank had done a great disservice to the Esther Ciereszko Family Trust to allow the deterioration of the property as it had

for several years. He felt that someone needed to take the bank to task for their actions in the interest of the client and the neighborhood. Chair Robinson stated that the house had been designed by a true visionary and it was sad that this idea might be sacrificed due to something like lack of roof preservation. He stated that he would have to oppose the application because he could not set a precedent to allow demolition for the sake of convenience.

Chair Robinson called for a vote on the motion. **The motion for denial of the demolition passed with a unanimous vote.**

It was decided that the second part of the application, consisting construction of an infill structure, was not appropriate for discussion due to the denial of the demolition application.

Applicant D Williams stated that he was in total agreement of the Commissioners decision and that they would have to look again at the monetary commitment before purchasing the house. He said that they realized the importance of the house to the neighborhood.


Item No. 15 being: **Miscellaneous.**

J Crumpley asked if it would be appropriate for the Commission to send a letter to Arvest Bank expressing their feelings towards the neglect of the house at 639 S Lahoma. Chair Robinson stated that it would be appropriate and that a letter would be sent.

Staff requested the Commission to sign and return the Ethics Pledge sheets.

Item No. 14, being: **Adjournment. 9:30 p.m.**

Passed and approved this 4th day of April 2011.


Chair Neil Robinson

Historic District Commission Meeting

Sign In Sheet

2/7/2011

118 SAVANNAH SQ.

- 1 MICHAEL BOWEN BOVATPOOB SHAWNEE 74804 503 0019
- 2 Lynne J. O OK(SHPO) 520-4478
- 3 Judy Gibbs Robinson 635 S Lakoma, Norman 476-4293
- 4 DAVID & MERIDETH FERRIS 517 S. LAKOMA, NORMAN 405.701.0275
- 5 Ellen R. Fisher SHPO 521-6387
- 6 STAN BERRY 712 JUNIPER LANE 830-4195
- 7 Jim Sweeney 4509 Hunters Hill Cr. 364-9096
- 8 Ricky Poland 425 Chantrelle 360-5001
- 9 Ricki Dollardhide 645 S. Lakoma 364-1184
- 10 David Dollardhide 645 S. Lakoma 364-1184
- 11 DAVID & LISA Williams 4341 Berry Farm Rd 321-8596
- 12 Karen Thurston 712 Cruce St 329-5551
- 13 **TY HARDIMAN 630 MILLER AVE 833.4184**
- 14 James Warram 638 S Lakoma 217-9791
- 15 Susan Warram 638 S Lakoma 217-9791
- 16 _____
- 17 _____
- 18 _____
- 19 _____
- 20 _____

re: 517 S. Lahoma app

Susan Atkinson

From: NeLLC Oil and Gas [drillwithne@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2011 11:14 AM

To: Susan Atkinson

Subject: Historical District application Lahoma

Hi Susan,

Just a quick note to go on record supporting the application for the backyard pool installation across the alley on Lahoma. Looks like a nice project.

Regards

Glen

Glen Brown

516 Chatuaqua

Norman, Ok 73069

4 February 2011

Susan Atkinson, AICP
Historic District Commission
201 West Gray
Norman, OK 73070

RE: Demolition of 639 S. Lahoma Ave.

Dear Susan Atkinson:

We are not convinced that the applicants, David and Lisa Williams, have justified the necessity of demolishing 639 S. Lahoma Ave. Their letter to the Historic District Commission cites three problems:

1. Structural issues
2. Roof repair
3. Water damage and mold growth

The most important problem that needs to be addressed in the consideration of this application is the extent of structural damage to the property. Is the structure salvageable? The application has been submitted to the commission before a thorough examination of the structure has been conducted by an independent party. Only the speculations of the applicant have been provided regarding structural issues. These need to be documented by a disinterested party and a report made available for review before a judgment can be made about the necessity of razing the building.

Roof repair would take care of the source of the water damage if the building is not razed. A new roof would have to be constructed for a replacement structure. Only the difference in expense for these two options is relevant to a cost comparison of the alternatives, razing or replacing.

Water damage and mold growth are two sides of the same coin. Once the water problem has been addressed, the mold growth can be remedied. The same protocol and precautions for removal will have to be employed if the building is razed, so the expense is equal for the two alternatives.

The applicants claim that these measures will cost \$150,000 before ordinary rehab can commence, and this expense will make the total cost prohibitive. Why is that true? This figure is not very different from the cost of remedial work on 638 S. Lahoma in 2003 without including the costs of replacing the garage and adding a screened porch on the rear of the building on that property. That building, too, had roof problems, structural support problems, rotted flooring, and termites. Perhaps the purchase price for the property is what makes the cost to the applicants prohibitive rather than the cost for repair and rehab.

Therefore, we oppose the application to raze the current structure at 639 S. Lahoma Ave. until adequate justification has been made public that it is necessary.

Sincerely,

Susan Warram
James Warram

Susan and James Warram
638 S. Lahoma Ave.

February 7, 2011

Karen Thurston
Historic District Resident
712 Cruce Street
Norman, OK 73069

RE: Demolition of 639 S. Lahoma Ave.

Dear Historic Preservation Commission:

I am writing as a very concerned resident in the Chautauqua Historic District. It is my understanding that potential buyers of the historical property referenced above intend to purchase a protected home in order to demolish the home and build a new structure. This intent goes against ALL preservation guidelines and goals of historic preservation. The potential buyers cite in the petition "prohibitive" costs of \$150,000 in order to make the home "a healthy family home". I contend that the ability to pay is irrelevant. Purchasing an historic protected home comes with the direct, not indirect, implication that the cost of repairs needs to be added to the budget of purchasing the home. "Remember, any defect can be corrected with enough time and money" (The Old-House Guide, 2011). Any potential buyer needs to consider this when placing a bid in an auction as they do when placing a traditional offer on a home.

In addition, the types of repairs listed in the petition are exactly the types of repairs necessary for the upkeep of any older home, including mine. I renovated my home, and **I spent a little more than what these potential buyers are calling "cost prohibitive"**. Almost daily my builders would say that it would be much cheaper to level it and start from scratch. My response was, and continues to be, yes, but then it would not be an historic home. As builders, their bias toward new and convenient was not in keeping with the idea of preservation. The character and uniqueness of each historic property is protected and should not be waived for those who do not wish to preserve.

There is a reason why buyers want to purchase homes in our neighborhood, and demolishing them negates this reason. Allowing this demolition would set a very bad precedent that goes against the very nature of this commission. In fact, I believe that your vote today on this matter is extremely important. You will either vote yourselves to be a relevant governing body of this preservation community, or you will vote yourselves irrelevant (and with enough time and demolitions, the name Chautauqua Historic District will become irrelevant as well). The idea that ruling the type of window installed in a home or the type of fencing used around the home (previous issues) as more important than the structures themselves (current issue) seems absurd.

I am also concerned that I only knew of this petition by word-of-mouth and did not receive a packet even though my property can be seen on the map given out with the petition. Issues such as this, that could potentially destroy the security of our protected homes, should be a district-wide announcement, not just to adjacent properties.

I present my perspective toward preservation in full knowledge that those beliefs are not held by all; however, they must be held by those buying historic homes in a protected district. I have been told by many of my friends that the “annoyances” of living in this neighborhood like the lack of parking, the extra expense because nothing is standard, and not being able to do ‘anything you want to your own house’ keeps them from buying here. Perhaps our historic neighborhood is not a good fit for these petitioners as well. Please protect our historic homes and district by declining this petition.

Thank you for your time and service to our community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Thurston', with a stylized, flowing script.

Karen Thurston

February 7, 2011

Norman Historic District Commission
c/o Neil Robinson, Acting Chairman
Office of Planning and Community Development
PO Box 370
Norman, OK 73070

To: All Members of the Commission

We are residents of the Chautauqua Historic District and have lived at 645 S. Lahoma Ave., next door to the property being considered by the Commission tonight, for 25 years. We were personally involved in the establishment of the Historic District and are supporters and advocates of neighborhood preservation.

After reviewing the application to demolish the property at 639 S. Lahoma, we have serious concerns. We do not agree with the applicant's stated opinion that to demolish the existing structures would be best for our neighborhood. We see this request as a threat not only to our immediate location, but one that will negatively impact the Chautauqua Historic District as a whole.

This property is of major importance to our block. Its architectural style, age, and scale all aesthetically enhance this area. It sits beautifully on its lot and complements the other homes around it because of these factors. This is the only Gimeno residence in our historic district and we, and our neighbors, feel very fortunate to have a property of such historical significance on our street.

Consequences of the demolition of this property reach far beyond the 600 block of South Lahoma. The property in question may quite possibly be considered the most important contributing structure in the entire Chautauqua Historic District – by virtue of its style, date of construction, and noted architect. We believe it is exactly the type of property the historic district was established to preserve. It is the only example of Spanish Eclectic style in the district. It was designed by Harold Gimeno, one of the most notable architects in the City of Norman and University of Oklahoma area in the early years of the 20th century. Gimeno's contributions to the history and architecture of our community are of immeasurable value. His personal ties with Norman and the University are unique and, again, of great value. His later work in California, where he designed many notable structures, gained him national prominence. Many of his buildings are listed on the National Historic Register.

We have serious concerns for the future of the Chautauqua Historic District. If a property such as this is allowed to be demolished, we believe it would severely diminish the commission's legitimacy as the body entrusted to preserve historically significant properties and districts. If the commission authorizes the demolition of the property, it seems to us a very dangerous precedent would be established. The commission may unintentionally create an avenue of opportunity for many similar requests in the future.

The demolition of this property would be a great lost to our historic district. We want to go on record in opposition to this request and urge the members of the commission to deny the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David & Vicki Dollarhide". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

David and Vicki Dollarhide

Enclosures

5 Buildings by Harold Gimeno

- Jim Gabbert
Architectural Historian, SHPO

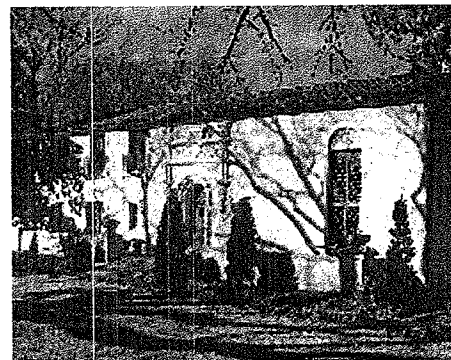
Harold Gimeno was the son of a noted artist, Patricio Gimeno. Patricio was a professor at the University

of Oklahoma and collaborated as a designer on many of Harold's creations. Educated in music and mathematics at the University of Oklahoma, Harold Gimeno obtained a Masters in Architectural Engineering from Harvard. He returned to Norman to establish his practice around 1925. His works reflect a predilection for designs that reflect his Spanish heritage. Spanish Renaissance and Spanish Colonial Revivals mark the bulk of his work, but he also worked in other popular styles of the 1920s. Throughout his career, Gimeno designed churches, commercial buildings, houses, and even a theater.



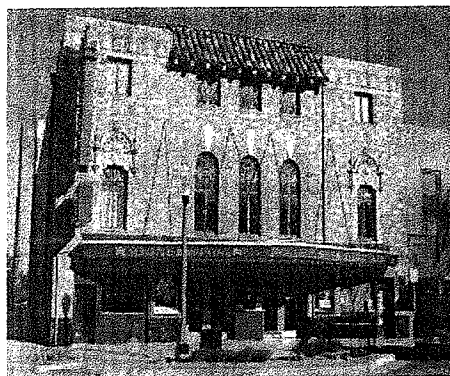
Beta Theta Pi House
Norman

Completed in 1929 after two years of construction, this fraternity house was designed in the Renaissance Revival style. Clad in smooth dressed limestone, the three story building is dominated by a full height, rounded portico capped with six large stone urns. The first floor windows are topped by round arched panels featuring cartouches.



Patricio Gimeno House
Norman

Harold Gimeno designed at least nine houses in Norman; one of the most impressive is the house designed for his parents, Patricio and Margaret. The 1927 Spanish Colonial Revival style house juxtaposes rough textured stucco walls with finely molded window and door surrounds. Patricio Gimeno added his own artistry to many of the interior finishes.



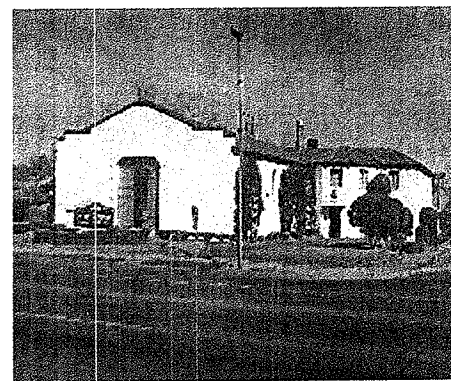
Sooner Theater
Norman

The Sooner Theater is another collaborative effort by the Gimenos. Completed in 1929, the Sooner is an atmospheric theater, one that carries its design motif from outside to inside, giving the customer an experience beyond the featured show. The interior features original artwork by Patricio Gimeno on the ceiling beams and wall panels.



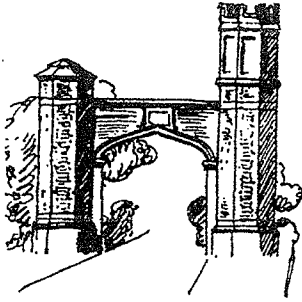
Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, Chickasha

The 1926 Holy Name Catholic Church is viewed by some as Harold Gimeno's most beautiful design. The basilica-type church is noted for its beautiful rose window and its sixty foot tall gothic bell tower. Constructed of red brick with limestone highlights, the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church marks Gimeno's largest commission.



Smith & Kernke Funeral Home
Oklahoma City

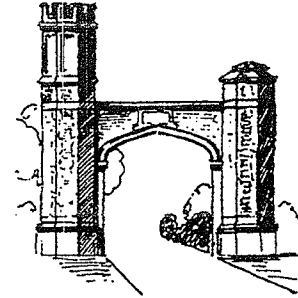
In 1939, Harold Gimeno designed a new building for Smith & Kernke Funeral Directors. He used a restrained Spanish Colonial Revival design. The smooth, stark white stucco walls are highlighted by a series of round arch windows along the side walls and a large window set on the front, or streetside, façade.



EVER SEE THESE?

Any Question About Arches?

BY DON WHISTLER



IF YOU are a student, regularly enrolled and make a practice of attending classes, you will sooner or later, pass under the arches that are literally the gates of the University. If you have as much curiosity as the casual observer, you will have, at some time or another, asked a friend or your roommate a question about those arches.

"What idea did the University authorities have in putting the date on them?"

"Oh, they didn't build them."

"Well then, who did?"

"Oh, is that so?"

Whose idea was it to leave that kind of a marker as a token of their passing?"

"They are so cute. Who designed them?"

Let me answer the last question first, because this is not a story of the arches but of the young man who designed them. Now and later I want to introduce to you, one at a time, students who have done things, with a capital "D," during their college life, and I firmly believe this young man comes under that classification.

Mr. Everystudent, meet Mr. Harold Gimeno.

"Glad to know you Mr. Gimeno," says Everystudent. "I see you about the campus almost every day, but

never before knew who you were. Is it true that you designed the arches?"

THEN, if this were an actual happening instead of an imaginary one, Mr. Gimeno probably would answer with the single word "Yes" and smile. He is above all things reserved about talking of his accomplishments, which is undoubtedly the reason that so few people know him as a designer of the arches over the sidewalks at the gates of the University.

When I asked him about the arches, in the course of gathering material for this article, he gave me a short history of them. From time to time each year's graduating class has left on the campus some memento of its passing. The big limestone block with "06" chisled in it, and the Spoonholder are little memorials of classes that have gone.

The class of 1917 desired to leave something new, something original, something to set a new pace, as it were. A committee was appointed and after much deliberation and many suggestions from the building committee of the University, it was decided to build a gate at the entrance to the campus.

Harold Gimeno was called in as architect and not only did he conceive the general plan and style but he also furnished all the detailed drawings, by

which the stone was made. The workmen followed these drawings in the construction. The class of 1919 built the left hand arch at the entrance of the oval, using the same plans as for the first, only reversed.

There is now in course of construction two more arches over the sidewalks leading toward the Engineering building, the Gymnasium, and Boyd field. Harold Gimeno designed them also, and, as he pointed out, there is a great improvement over the old ones. The average person will realize that the new ones are better, but cannot say exactly why. Mr. Gimeno explains that in the old arches, the arch itself springs out of the towers, and in the new ones there are pillars to support the arches. Another point is that in the old ones there is no red brick in the arch itself, a defect which has been overcome in the new ones.

"Truly little things," says Mr. Gimeno, "but they mean considerable to the looks of the arch and a really artistic architectural eye will appreciate the vast differences."

Harold Gimeno has designed five houses in Norman, among which stand out most prominently for their novel and unusual exteriors, are the Delta Delta Delta house, and the Gimeno family residence at 807 Jenkins Avenue.

*Univ. of Okla. Magazine
Vol. 9 issue 5*

An Association of Professorial Minds

BY STAFF WRITER

METHODS of increasing intellectual interest and raising intellectual standards of undergraduates, and the desirability of increasing interchange of graduate students with foreign universities are two of the special topics for discussion and study by local branches of the American Association of College Professors,

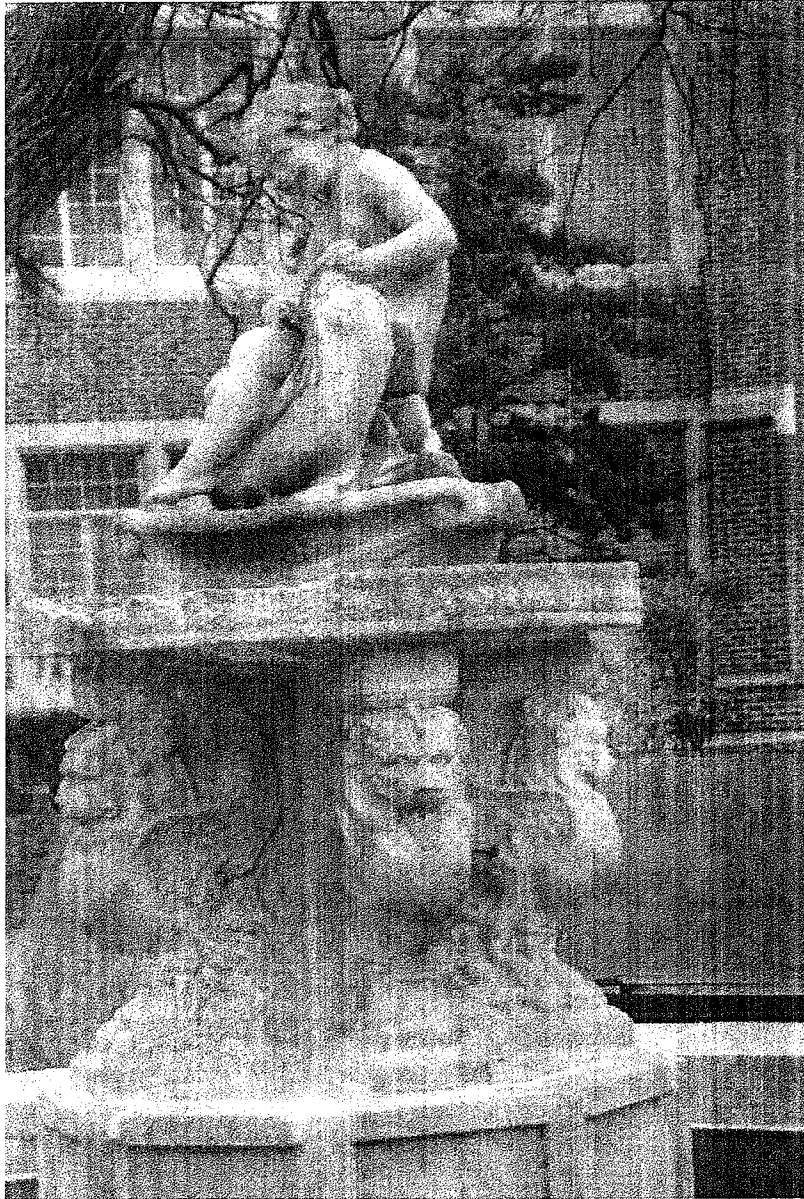
a branch of which has just been organized at the University of Oklahoma.

The object of this association is as follows:

"To facilitate a more effective cooperation among teachers and investigators in universities and colleges, and in professional schools of similar grade, for the promotion of the interests of

higher education and research, and in general to increase the usefulness and advance the standards and ideals of the profession.

The formal organization of the Oklahoma branch took place March 11, when Dr. S. W. Reaves, head of the department of mathematics, was elected president, and Prof. H. H. Herbert,



Listed by
Smithsonian American
Art Museum
Inventory of American
Sculpture

dedicated to
Patrick G.
Adams Hall

Coordinates: 34°03′46″N 118°25′04″W﻿ / ﻿

St. Timothy Catholic Church

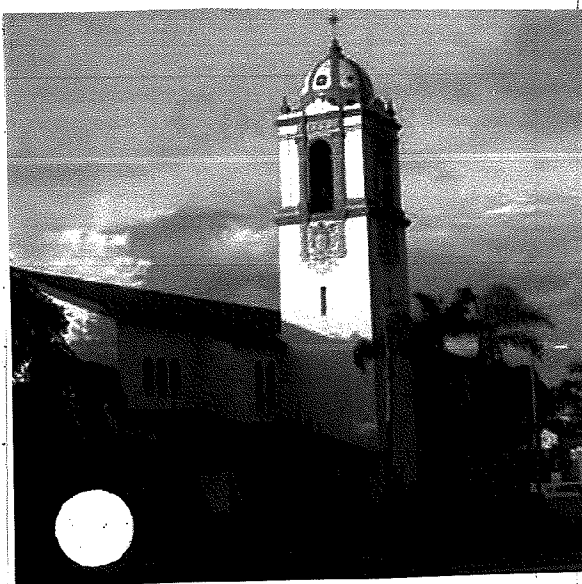
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

St. Timothy Catholic Church is a Roman Catholic church and parish in the Los Angeles Archdiocese, Our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region. The church is located at 10425 West Pico Boulevard in the Rancho Park neighborhood on the westside of Los Angeles, California, USA. The Spanish Renaissance style church was built in 1949.

St. Timothy Catholic Church



Location	10425 W Pico Blvd., Rancho Park, Los Angeles, California
Country	 USA
Denomination	Roman Catholic
Website	www.sttimothyla.org (http://www.sttimothyla.org/)
History	
Founded	Parish founded in 1943
Dedicated	Church building dedicated December 25, 1949
Architecture	
Architectural type	Spanish Renaissance
Administration	
Diocese	Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Division	Our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region
Clergy	
Archbishop	Roger M. Mahony
Bishop(s)	Edward W. Clark
Assistant priest	Fr. Emmanuel (Wharren) Banico
Deacon	Thomas A. Sabol



■ 5 Notes

Pastor(s) Fr. Paul E. Vigil

History

The parish of St. Timothy was created in 1943 to serve the Rancho Park and Cheviot Hills sections of Los Angeles.^{[1][2]}

When the parish was first established, it did not yet have a church, and masses were held in an ice cream parlor on Pico Boulevard.^[1] A temporary church, now used as the parish hall, was dedicated by Bishop John J. Cantwell on April 22, 1945.^[3]

The current church building opened for midnight mass on Christmas 1949.^[1]

For its first half century, St. Timothy's was led by two pastors. In its early years, St. Timothy's was led Father William T. O'Shea (1902-1963), who served as pastor from 1943 until his death in 1963.^{[1][4]} In 1963, Bishop John J. Ward was appointed as the pastor, making St. Timothy one of only two parishes in the Archdiocese to have a bishop for a pastor. Bishop Ward served as pastor from 1963 until his retirement in 1996.^[1]

Father William J. Brelsford became pastor upon the retirement of Bishop Ward and has remained the pastor from 1996 to 2009.^[1]

In July 2009, Father Paul E. Vigil, a native of Los Angeles and a graduate of Bishop Amat High School, became the fourth pastor in the history of St. Timothy.^[1]

As of 2009, there were 1,200 registered households in parish.^[1]

Architecture and design features

The church building at St. Timothy's was designed in the Spanish Renaissance style by Harold Gimeno.^[5]

One of the most notable features of St. Timothy Catholic Church is its antique gold leaf Spanish altarpiece. The history of the St. Timothy altarpiece prior to 1900 is unknown, though it is believed to have been made in Spain in the 1600s.^{[3][6]} In the early 1900s, it was shipped from a church in Spain to Yucatan, Mexico. It was confiscated by the Mexican government and later came into the possession of a New York art dealer in New York.^[6] In the 1920s, the altarpiece was purchased by a wealthy individual associated with the Doheny Oil Company. It remained in storage until the 1940s when it was purchased at auction by a representative of St. Timothy's.^[6] The altarpiece was installed in the temporary church and later in the current church.^[1] When the altarpiece was displayed to the public in April 1945, the *Los Angeles Times* wrote:

"[T]he elaborately carved gold-leafed 23-foot altar was built in Spain or Mexico more than 300 years ago. It was acquired by purchase from a private collection. An idea of its antiquity is revealed by examination of the large slabs of lumber that back the pilasters. These were hewn from logs with axes and then smoothed and gold-leafed."^[7]

The church also includes two statues, one of the Virgin Mary and the other of St. Joseph, that were acquired from Twentieth Century Fox Studios. The statues had appeared in the 1946 motion picture, "The Jolson Story," in a scene set at "St. Mary's Home for Boys."^[6]

The parish was the home to many artisans from the MGM and Fox motion picture studios, and these parishioners were responsible for creating some of the church's decorative features.^[1] These feature include the ornate gold-plated tabernacle, which was designed and fabricated by craftsmen at the special effects department of MGM Studios.^[6] Also, carpenters from the Twentieth Century Fox woodshop built the pews located in the nave of the church during a strike that left the woodshop idle.^[6]

The decorative base of the church's pulpit came from the collection of William Randolph Hearst.^[6]

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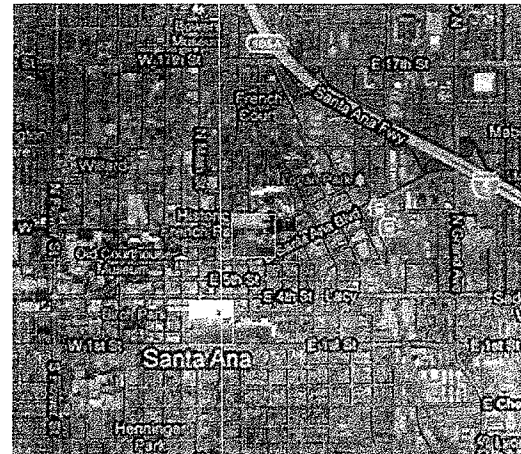
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